

Philosophy 100D: Philosophy of Mind

Summer 2008

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Course Description: We have a rich mental life. It is populated in large part by our conscious waking states, beliefs, desires, plans, musings, and emotions. While we have a pretty good grasp on the nature of the physical world, the mind remains elusive. Just what is a mind, anyhow, and what is the nature of mental states? Are they states of an immaterial soul? Logical constructions out of behavior? Brain states? Computational states? How does the mind interact with the brain/body? In this course we look at the influential theories of mind over the past century and consider some problems concerning consciousness and mental content.

Readings: *Philosophy of Mind*, Jaegwon Kim, 2nd edition

Readings in the Philosophy of Psychology Volume 1, ed. Ned Block

Possible additional readings to be made available online.

Course Requirements:

1 st paper	- 30%,	(4-5 pages)
2 nd paper	- 30%	(4-5 pages)
Section	- 5%	
Final	- 35%	

Late policy: For each day late, papers will be marked down 1/3 of a letter grade. For example, an A paper that is 2 days late will receive a B+, etc. If you are going to be out of town on the due date, *turn the paper in early* to your TA and avoid a penalty.

Plagiarism: . . . is a blight on yourself and academia: DON'T DO IT!! Anybody who plagiarizes on a paper or cheats on the final will, *at least*, receive an F for that portion of the course. At worst, you will fail the class, be reported to the higher-ups, and possibly be expelled. Don't be a plagiarizing parasite.

Lecture Attendance: The material for this course is difficult. You will increase your chance to do well if you attend lectures regularly, pay attention, and think critically.

Tentative Schedule

Week One: Substance Dualism

Kim Ch. 1-2

Week Two: Behaviorism

Kim Ch. 3

From *RIPP*:

Carl Hempel, "The Logical Analysis of Psychology"

Hilary Putnam, "Brains and Behavior"

Noam Chomsky, "Review of Skinner"

Week Three: Identity theory

First Paper due on Tuesday 8/19

Kim Ch. 4

From *RIPP*:

Jerry Fodor, "Special Sciences"

Hilary Putnam, "The Nature of Mental States"

Recommended: replies from Kim and Lewis in *RIPP*

Week Four: Machine Functionalism

Kim Ch. 5

From *RIPP*:

Hilary Putnam, "The Nature of Mental States" (revisited)

Ned Block and Jerry Fodor, "What Psychological States are Not"

Week Five: Causal Role Functionalism

Kim Ch. 6

From *RIPP*:

David Lewis, "Psychophysical and Theoretical Identification"

Ned Block, "Troubles with Functionalism"

Week Six: Property Dualism // Intentionality

Second Paper due on Tuesday 9/9

From *RIPP*:

Thomas Nagel, "What is it Like to be a Bat?"

Kim Ch 9 (p. 254-270)

Final on Thursday 9/11